AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of isolating RNA from a biological specimen comprising:

(a) contacting the biological specimen with an admixture of (i) ~~an effective amount~~ **from about 750 to about 1000 microliters** of a mono-phasic solution of phenol and guanidine isothiocyanate, and (ii) ~~an effective amount~~ **from about 100 to about 300 microliters** of a lysis buffer under conditions and for a time appropriate to form a homogenate;

(b) admixing the homogenate with a water- immiscible organic solvent under conditions and for a time appropriate to form an aqueous phase and an organic phase;

(c) contacting the aqueous phase with a C_1-C_4 lower alcohol under conditions and for a time to form a precipitated RNA; and

(d) recovering the precipitated RNA wherein the lysis buffer compromises a chelating agent and a dispersing agent, and the biological specimen is a bacterium.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said biological specimen is first contacted with a lysis buffer followed by a mono-phasic solution of phenol and guanidine isothiocyanate.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the RNA isolated is total RNA.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said biological specimen is a Gram-positive bacterium.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the biological specimen is a clinical isolate of a microorganism.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the biological specimen is obtained from a human, animal, plant or microbe.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the chelating agent is EDTA, EGTA, or a combination of both.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispersing agent is a detergent.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispersing agent is a surfactant.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the surfactant is N-lauroylsarcosine, sodium lauryl sulfate or a mixture thereof.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the water-immiscible organic solvent is chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, or a mixture thereof.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the C_1-C_4 lower alcohol is ethanol, methanol or isopropyl alcohol.

15-23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said admixture comprises from about 750 to about 850 microliters of said mono-phasic solution of phenol and guanidine isothiocyanate and from about 150 to about 250 microliters of said lysis buffer.

25. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said admixture comprises about 800 microliters of said mono-phasic solution of phenol and guanidine isothiocyanate and about 200 microliters of said lysis buffer.